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USIB-D-41.12/12  
(COMOR-D-7/31)  
6 November 1964  
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UNITED STATES INTELLIGENCE BOARD

MEMORANDUM FOR THE UNITED STATES INTELLIGENCE BOARD

SUBJECT: Briefing of Foreign Officials on Satellite Photographic Capabilities, and Review of Restrictions on T-KH Information within the U.S. Government

1. In executive session at the 5 November USIB meeting, General Carter, as Acting Chairman, recalled that Mr. McCone, at the direction of the Secretaries of State and Defense, had recently briefed the heads of some NATO nations on the fact that the U.S. is conducting satellite photographic reconnaissance and is obtaining very valuable information. These briefings, which the DCI had mentioned at USIB, were very well received.

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4. The Acting State Member said that this raises a question of how long it is desirable to keep in a special category the fact that the U.S. is taking satellite photography. General Carter thought that general knowledge of the fact of this capability might justify a review of basic policy to that extent, but he did not believe that any fundamental change should be made regarding the public or foreign release of the product of this photography. Mr. Denney suggested the possible study of the pros and cons of so classifying papers based on T-KH material that they can be made more available within the U.S. Government. General Fitch commented that DIA has been very concerned on that point as it affects mapping and charting.

5. Based on the discussion, the USIB agreed to ask the Security Committee and COMOR to collaborate in studying whether the present restraints on dissemination and handling of T-KH material were overly restrictive or still necessary within the U.S. Government.

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Executive Secretary

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